

TRADE UNION STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA DECEMBER 1972

The figures contained in this annual bulletin have been compiled from data obtained from questionnaires sent to individual trade unions and to trades and labour councils in the annual collection of membership of trade unions, etc. as at 31 December 1972. For comparison, figures for some earlier years are also shown. More detailed statistics for earlier years and a description of these series appear in the *Labour Report* and the *Official Year Book*.

2. Table 1 of this bulletin shows the number of unions and membership in each State and Territory; Tables 2 and 3 the proportion of total wage and salary earners; Table 4 a classification according to the number of members; Table 5 interstate unions classified by the area of operation; and Table 6 shows the number of trades and labour councils. Details of organisations registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act are shown in paragraph 11 on page 2.

3. For the purpose of these statistics a trade union is defined as an organisation consisting predominantly of employees and whose principal activities include the negotiation of rates of pay and conditions of employment for its members.

4. Current lists of reporting trade unions are maintained by reference to lists of reporting trade unions used in previous years; by reference to trade unions registered under the provisions of the various Commonwealth and State industrial arbitration acts, trade union acts, etc.; from names of unions reported to be engaged in conciliation and arbitration proceedings, etc.; from reports of trade unions in trade journals, trade union and employer periodicals, newspapers, and other publications. It should be noted that not all reporting trade unions are registered under relevant Commonwealth or State industrial arbitration legislation or State trade union acts.

5. The published number of reporting trade unions varies from year to year as a result of amalgamations and mergers of unions; unions ceasing to operate; new unions being formed; existing organisations changing their status such that it brings them within the scope of the definition of a trade union (see paragraph 3); and existing unions reporting for the first time. These variations generally have little or no effect on total membership figures. Between 1971 and 1972 the number of reporting trade unions increased from 303 to 305. This change was the result of (i) a number of amalgamations or mergers that resulted in 15 unions being reduced to 7 unions (i.e. 8 unions less); (ii) 3 unions ceasing to operate; and (iii) 13 existing unions with approximately 2,000 members reporting for the first time.

6. The total membership of the reporting trade unions represents the aggregate of the membership of individual unions; persons who are members of more than one union are therefore counted more than once in the totals. The extent of duplication is not known and it may vary over time. Total reported membership figures are affected by differences in the concept of membership adopted by various unions or by the same union at different times. Union rules on membership may follow different concepts and practices and this may be reflected in the level and fluctuations of the figures reported. Some unions confine their reported membership to "financial" members whilst others may also include "unfinancial" members. Individual unions may or may not include in their reported membership unemployed members, members who have retired from the work force, disabled members, members with dues in arrears (who may be kept on union books for varying lengths of time), etc. Members of unions working overseas (e.g. Papua New Guinea) are excluded from the reported membership data.

7. Membership of trade unions is shown separately for males and females for each State and Territory. The subdivision of the total membership into males and females is not precise because some trade unions are unable to state the exact number of males and females among their members. The subdivision of total membership by States and Territories is also not precise because some unions in the Territories are affiliated with State organisations and their membership is reported under the heading of that State. More accurate reporting of membership by location by trade unions over the years is reflected in the annual figures for the Territories and this affects their comparability over time.

8. Interstate or federated trade unions are those unions which have members in more than one State. The larger interstate unions are usually administered by both Federal and State executives, the degree of control of the respective executives varying from union to union. The State branches, or in some cases intra-State branches, of such unions may be separately registered under provisions of relevant State industrial arbitration legislation, etc., perhaps under several different names. When obtaining statistics from trade unions operating wholly within one State or district, secretaries are asked to report whether or not the union is a branch of an interstate, or a larger State or district organisation. This reporting reduces the possibility of duplication in the figures of the number of unions and of membership. An interstate or federated trade union is treated as a separate union in each State or Territory in which it has members, but is counted only once in the Australian total (see Table 1).

9. Trades and labour councils are delegate organisations usually known as Trades Hall Councils or Labour Councils and consist of representatives of a number of trade unions. Such councils have been established in the capital cities and in a number of other centres in each State. In the centres where these councils exist, unions with local branches operating in the district are often affiliated. The figures for the number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated with the local trades councils in the several towns in which they are represented. For more detailed information on trades and labour councils and other central labour organisations, see the annual *Labour Report*.

10. Information about the industry distribution of trade unions and their membership has been published in this bulletin and other Bureau publications in past years in the form of tables classifying trade unions and their members by industry groups. In cases where the members of a union were employed in a number of industries the union has been classified to the predominant industry for the union concerned. In recent years a number of trade unions have ceased to function individually by reason of amalgamation or merger. This has created problems of coding where the amalgamating unions have been classified to different industry groups. These amalgamations, etc., together with the imprecision of coding unions to their predominant industry group, result in an inaccurate analysis of the number and membership of trade unions by industry groups. Therefore the publication of tables showing industry groups has been discontinued.

11. **Organisations registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.** Details of employer and employee organisations registered under this Act as at the end of 1972 are set out below, with comparable figures for 1971 shown in brackets. There were 77 (77) employer organisations registered at the end of 1972. The number of unions registered at the end of 1972 was 152 (154), with membership of 2,129,097 (1,984,179), representing 84 (81) per cent of total membership of all trade unions in Australia. For more details of organisations registered under this Act and under State industrial arbitration Acts, see the annual *Labour Report*.

12. This bulletin does not contain information on employer and employee organisations registered under State industrial arbitration Acts, etc.; central labour organisations such as the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations, the Council of Commonwealth Public Service Organisations, and the Council of Professional Associations; and the International Labour Organisation. Information on these is contained in the annual *Labour Report*.

13. Where membership figures have been rounded in this bulletin, any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. - TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP, STATES

End of December -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T. (a)	Aust.
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS (b)									
1971	204	158	140	139	154	111	51	82	(c)303
1972	198	158	138	132	151	112	55	84	(c)305
NUMBER OF MEMBERS ('000)									
1971 -									
Males	720.3	450.9	251.4	172.1	133.5	58.2	6.7	25.2	1,818.2
Females	251.3	166.8	86.2	43.8	44.8	17.0	1.5	7.0	618.3
Persons	971.6	617.7	337.6	215.9	178.3	75.2	8.1	32.2	2,436.6
1972 -									
Males	713.5	461.2	248.4	171.6	135.7	60.6	8.8	27.7	1,827.4
Females	274.8	190.9	95.1	52.1	49.1	19.9	2.3	12.0	696.2
Persons	988.4	652.1	343.5	223.7	184.8	80.5	11.1	39.7	2,523.7

(a) See paragraph 7, page 1. (b) See paragraph 5, page 1. (c) Without interstate duplication. See paragraph 8, page 1.

Proportion of total wage and salary earners. Tables 2 and 3 below show the approximate percentages of wage and salary earners in employment who were members of trade unions. The estimates of total wage and salary earners have been derived by adding figures for employees in rural industries and in private domestic service recorded at the 1966 Population Census to the estimates of employees in all other industries as at the end of each year. The percentages shown in these tables are not directly comparable with those shown in *Labour Report* No. 53, 1967 and earlier issues of the Labour Report, because the present percentages are based on a revised series of employment estimates available only as from June 1966. The change between the series is more significant for female employees as the current employment estimates include a considerable number of part-time employees who had previously been excluded.

TABLE 2. - TRADE UNIONS : PROPORTION OF TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (a)
DECEMBER 1972

State	Number of members ('000)			Proportion of total wage and salary earners (a) (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
New South Wales and A.C.T.	741.2	286.8	1,028.0	62	45	56
Victoria	461.2	190.9	652.1	54	41	49
Queensland	248.4	95.1	343.5	57	47	54
South Australia	171.6	52.1	223.7	60	36	52
Western Australia	135.7	49.1	184.8	57	39	51
Tasmania	60.6	19.9	80.5	64	47	59
Northern Territory	8.8	2.3	11.1	39	21	33
Australia	1,827.4	696.2	2,523.7	58	43	53

(a) Percentages not comparable with those published in *Labour Report* No. 53, 1967 and earlier issues of the Labour Report. See text above.

TABLE 3. - TRADE UNIONS : PROPORTION OF TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, AUSTRALIA (a)

End of December -	Number of members ('000)			Proportion of total wage and salary earners (a) (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1966	1,657.5	466.0	2,123.5	60	37	53
1967	1,663.7	487.6	2,151.3	59	37	52
1968	1,691.1	499.5	2,190.7	59	36	51
1969	1,717.5	521.6	2,239.1	58	36	50
1970	1,750.6	564.1	2,314.6	57	36	50
1971	1,818.2	618.3	2,436.6	59	39	52
1972	1,827.4	696.2	2,523.7	58	43	53

(a) Percentages not comparable with those published in *Labour Report* No. 53, 1967 and earlier issues of the Labour Report. See text above.

TABLE 4. - TRADE UNIONS : CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF MEMBERS, AUSTRALIA

Number of members	Number of separate unions (a)				Number of members ('000)			
	Dec. 1969	Dec. 1970	Dec. 1971	Dec. 1972	Dec. 1969	Dec. 1970	Dec. 1971	Dec. 1972
Under 100	43	41	39	42	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0
100 and under 250	33	39	40	42	5.2	6.4	6.9	7.1
250 " 500	38	39	33	36	13.7	14.4	12.1	13.6
500 " 1,000	36	33	38	38	23.1	22.3	26.9	28.2
1,000 " 2,000	52	46	42	37	65.1	64.8	60.9	52.6
2,000 " 5,000	40	40	45	45	135.8	136.7	149.8	148.3
5,000 " 10,000	15	13	12	12	108.6	88.4	85.8	85.2
10,000 " 20,000	19	21	17	16	268.4	304.9	238.6	216.1
20,000 " 30,000	8	7	11	12	188.5	158.1	255.7	279.9
30,000 " 40,000	7	7	7	4	250.2	247.5	254.6	140.1
40,000 " 50,000	5	5	5	7	214.5	222.1	217.6	303.9
50,000 " 80,000	10	10	7	6	646.4	645.4	468.6	400.3
80,000 and over	3	4	7	8	317.5	401.5	657.0	846.5
Total	309	305	303	305	2,239.1	2,314.6	2,436.6	2,523.7

(a) See paragraph 5, page 1.

TABLE 5. - INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED TRADE UNIONS, AUSTRALIA

End of December -	Unions operating in (a) -						Total
	2 States	3 States	4 States	5 States	6 States		
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS (b)							
1969	10	7	18	23	84		142
1970	11	7	17	27	85		147
1971	12	6	16	32	81		147
1972	10	5	17	29	79		140
NUMBER OF MEMBERS ('000)							
1969	22.5	31.0	130.0	294.8	1,571.9		2,050.2
1970	21.8	23.9	97.1	382.6	1,595.4		2,120.8
1971	24.3	21.0	104.2	425.9	1,660.5		2,235.9
1972	22.0	62.4	96.7	339.0	1,803.0		2,323.1

(a) Certain unions have, in addition to branches in the States, branches in the Northern Territory and in the Australian Capital Territory. See paragraph 8, page 1. (b) See paragraph 5, page 1.

TABLE 6. - TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCILS (a)

End of December -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
NUMBER OF COUNCILS									
1969	10	9	13	5	3	2			43
1970	10	9	13	5	3	2	1	1	43
1971	11	9	13	8	3	2	1	1	47
1972	11	8	13	7	3	2	1	1	45
NUMBER OF AFFILIATED UNIONS AND BRANCH UNIONS									
1969	334	279	191	149	136	91		19	1,199
1970	320	274	191	151	127	99		22	1,184
1971	345	269	206	185	122	82		21	1,230
1972	360	270	205	176	121	100		27	1,259

(a) See paragraph 9, page 2.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2055 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.